

We started with a vote on the topics suggested.

It was decided to postpone – Test Process Improvement and Cloud Testing

Software Testing as a Profession and Career

Facilitator: James Pennefather

Overall and rightly so, this table attracted a lot of interest and great deal of passion from everyone that stopped by.

It was a little surprising how concerned a large percentage of people were about their job security in the local testing market. Their key concerns stemmed from:

- The continuing trend in offshoring
- Falling rates for contractors
- The increasing competition for jobs, which is being magnified by increasing numbers of candidates on 457 visa's (and their spouses)
- The ability to stay current in their skillsets, especially if they have time out of the market
- Shrinking size of testing teams in their organisations
- Shrinking budgets for training

On the positive side and to counteract a number of these issues:

- They realise testing as a profession is not going away with more and more companies needing to undertake it
- They are extremely proud of their contribution to their organisations and the market
- They like the fact they get a deep understanding of the operations of their work places
- UAT is quite difficult to offshore
- Agile projects are also harder to run effectively when offshored
- The growth of mobile testing is very positive for the market and provides a large number of opportunities in the future
- They realise they need to skill up to stay ahead of the competition, and are taking steps to do so
- They can raise their profiles by blogging and joining linked in discussions
- Attending industry events such as SIGIST's is a great way to increase their skills and industry knowledge to be abreast of factors affecting the local market.

Overall it was an excellent session and thank you to everyone for contributing.

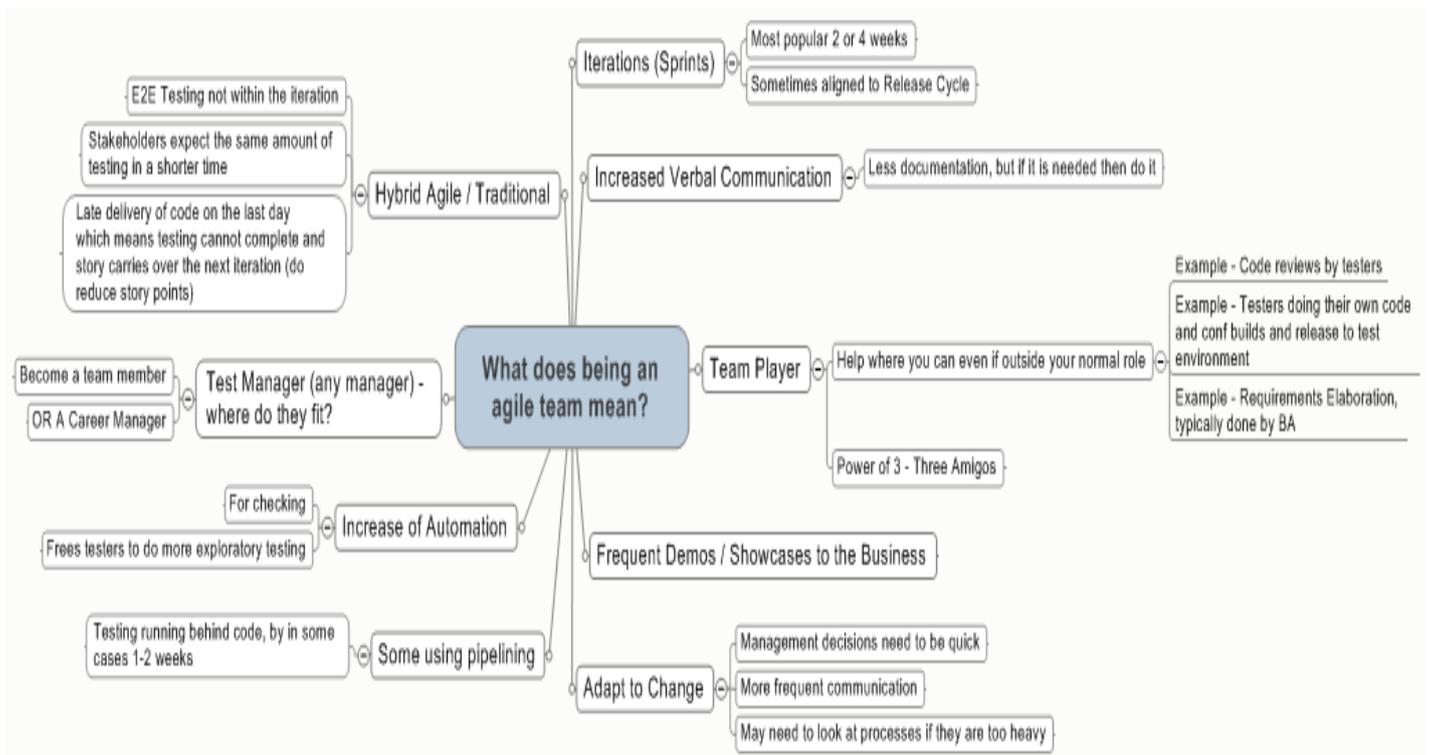
How do you know your Team is Agile?

Facilitator: Leanne Howard

With a rough show of hands for each group, about 60% of people said they were in an agile team or their organisation was using agile for some projects.

The key point that came out in the discussions was that, there were a lot of people thinking they were doing agile, but had not embraced the agile manifesto/principles or all practices within the chosen framework. A lot were using a hybrid form, still incorporating a lot of waterfall practices such as having a separate User Acceptance level outside the team or developers working on some code for a week (or two) before it was released to test.

Discussions:



Mobile Testing Round-table

Facilitator: David Fuller

Approaches to testing

There are different types of delivery for mobile applications which will impact what we test

1. Native Apps – this is where functionality is built into the phone & leverages the capabilities of the device (eg: GPS). We download these from the App stores. Some of the challenges here would be around retesting across the different device types and operating systems as some may behave differently.
2. mSite – this is where web-pages are pushed to the device. Some of the challenges here may be the way that pages are rendered across the different device types. Some forms & buttons could look & behave quite differently.
3. Hybrid – this is a combination of the above 2 types. Some of the challenges here may be how the device behaves when switching between the two. There may be lags while the device is waiting for pages to be downloaded. As well as the above issues specific to each type.

Automation of tests

1. There are different tools available on the market to facilitate the different types of testing (functional, performance & security). Both Commercial & Freeware options should be considered based on their coverage & functional capabilities.
2. When looking at opportunities for Automation it is important to assess the maturity of the scenarios as well as the return on investment. Functionality that will change frequently may not be the best candidate for early Automation.

Virtualisation opportunities

1. In order to remove the dependency on backend systems you could look to virtualise these back-ends. This could be achieved by using tools or by creating stubs, which will replicate the request/responses and any specific data combinations.
2. There are providers that offer the capability to simulate different device types & operating systems. You can perform a test against one type of device & this is then replicated across the other types. These are often cloud solutions and may require other considerations.

Issues which may be encountered during testing

Non-conformity across devices/browsers

1. When testing different devices and browsers there will be instances where the applications will behave differently. This will often mean that retesting will be required across multiple instances as part of retesting. We need to factor this into our estimates as it could be a very high proportion of our coverage.

Selecting the right coverage

1. Selecting the appropriate test coverage for each device is an important consideration during the planning phase. Often our businesses will want everything tested but this can mean a very extensive/exhaustive test phase.

Risk Based Testing techniques can help with the distribution of test cases. The “Orthogonal Arrays” technique is covered in the ISTQB Advance Test Analyst syllabus & has been used very effectively to assist with this.

Tooling

1. We have noticed that the tools currently available are not keeping pace with the evolution of devices. New devices are coming to market and tool upgrades are lagging about 3-6 months.

You should assume that tools are going to be available for all scenarios.

Industry Trends

Facilitator: David Minogue

Overall the group discussion focussed on 3 key trends in the software testing industry:-

- 1) The rise of Agile Testing,
- 2) The adoption of Automation &
- 3) The growth of Acceptance Test Driven Development.

Focus of the discussions was on the benefits and issues encountered with the adoption of each.

Agile

a) Benefits as compared to the traditional Waterfall / V model:-

- Agile testing is seen as an approach that enables **quick** rapport between stakeholders -
- Quicker speed to market.
- Minimal documentation was seen as a benefit.
- People liked that there was a strong sense of collaboration and Teamwork i.e. eliminates the 'Us vs. Them'

b) Issues:-

- It was felt by several participants that there was the potential for requirement gaps especially with conflicting user stories.
- Most participants noted the disparity in the meaning of what it is to be agile even within the same organization.

Automation

a) Benefits of implementing Automation

- Eliminates the tedious work of running regression packs manually.
- Allows functional testers to focus on higher 'value add' activities.
- Allows functional testers the opportunity to learn new skills if so inclined.

b) Issues

- How do you train functional testers into testers that can run automated scripts?
- Difficulties associated with calculating ROI.
- Difficult to implement in an Agile framework where changes to existing scripts are required continuously.
- Which tool do you use?

It was also noted that increasingly Automation is being performed by dedicated teams & that Open source tools are gaining in popularity e.g. Selenium.

Acceptance Test driven development

- a) Benefits as compared to the traditional Waterfall / V model:-
 - ATDD is seen as an approach that enables **quick** rapport between stakeholders especially testers and developers
 - Quick feedback loops.

- b) Issues:-

Less structured process and this was felt as being an issue especially for those testers that come from a more formal/structured organisation.

Feedback on the night:

Everyone was very positive with the new format and would like to have discussion groups next time.

They would like to spend more time on a topic and the consensus was 15 minutes per topic for discussion, thereby each person would attend two sessions.

Possible further topics (to be added to backlog):

- Security
- ISO29119 – Testing Standard
- DevOps
- Plus the ones carried over from this session